

**To:** Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]; Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]  
**From:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Wed 2/12/2014 7:56:48 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Water Testing in WV

fyi

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*Carolyn Levine*

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**From:** Snyder, Raquel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:47 PM  
**To:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Subject:** FW: Water Testing in WV

FYI

**From:** Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [[mailto:Laura\\_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov](mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:33 PM  
**To:** Snyder, Raquel  
**Subject:** Water Testing in WV

Hi Raquel,

The Governor has been asking for federal assistance in health studies and fundamental research related to the spill. I know NSF distributed some RAPID grants to do a number of studies in relation to the spill to 3 universities, and I was wondering if the EPA would have any similar grants or discretionary funding that could be distributed to help with on the ground research

either directly to the state or through an independent entity.

Many thanks,

Laura

4-1846

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Amy Shuler Goodwin**

**February 11, 2014**

**304-558-4977**

## **GOVERNOR TOMBLIN DIRECTS HEALTH OFFICIALS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH HOME TESTING PROJECT**

*Independent, scientific experts to work with Bureau for Public Health*

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has directed the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, in cooperation with local and state health officials, to move forward quickly to put together a home testing project, *West Virginia Testing Assessment Project* or *WV TAP*, for residences in the affected nine-county area. The Bureau for Public Health has engaged independent, scientific experts to:

- Initiate an initial assessment for testing water at the tap in homes-different types of plumbing materials found in homes will be included in the scope of this study.
- Initiate an in-depth analysis to determine the odor threshold for MCHM.
- Establish an independent panel of experts to evaluate the safety factor for MCHM.

Gov. Tomblin has committed \$650,000 from his budget for the initial work. The governor has also reached out to Senators Rockefeller and Manchin as well as Congressman Rahall and Congresswoman Capito to ask for their support of federal assistance to conduct ongoing research addressing short-term and long-term health impacts in addition to the fundamental research about this chemical.

Letitia Tierney, MD, JD, Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and State Health Officer, said the weekend's work has been a "positive step forward toward restoring public confidence." She praised the cooperation of the local, state and federal stakeholders involved. Tierney said she was particularly pleased outside, independent experts have been engaged to offer guidance on how to proceed.

Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, Executive Director and Health Officer of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and the Putnam County Health Department, praised the cooperation between all involved. "We're looking at a short-term plan to immediately restore confidence and a long-term plan to determine the health effects, if any, in the future," Gupta said. "I am happy local health departments are involved in the process."

Harry Tweel, MD, FCCP, Executive Director of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department, praised Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin for his continued interest in maintaining a healthy water system and said the ongoing work represents more than a 30-year partnership between local health departments and the state and federal government.

Dr. Andrew Whelton and Jeffrey Rosen of Corona Environmental Consulting will lead the independent team.

Dr. Whelton is a professor at the University of South Alabama who has been studying drinking water from affected homes and their residential plumbing systems. Dr. Whelton was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant for this research. Dr. Whelton has advanced degrees in environmental and civil engineering. His 14 years of experience includes designing and overseeing safe drinking water systems for the U.S. military as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army.

"I commend Governor Tomblin for stepping up and being proactive," Dr. Whelton said. "What has happened in West Virginia is unprecedented in U.S. history. The tasks he has assigned the team promise to yield significant contributions toward safeguarding public health not only in this affected area but nationwide and around the world."

Jeffrey Rosen, President of Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC, will provide guidance as the project manager. Mr. Rosen will help to coordinate all statistical design, activities, logistics, and management associated with the project. Mr. Rosen is a Senior Scientist and Statistician with over thirty years of experience in conducting environmental research. Mr. Rosen has been supporting the drinking water community for over 25 years and has worked on a wide range of topics including regulation development, on-line monitoring, homeland security and information system development.

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